

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended): A method of forming an oil-repellent film on a predetermined area of one of a stationary bearing component and a rotary bearing component which together constitute a bearing, comprising the steps of:

supplying a solution of oil repellent through a supply member of an oil repellent supply apparatus and onto said bearing component within the predetermined area thereof, and moving the predetermined area of said bearing component and the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus relative to one another while the solution of oil repellent is being supplied onto said bearing component to thereby coat the predetermined area with the oil repellent; and

~~removing suctioning excess oil repellent from the predetermined area of said bearing component to remove excess oil repellent from the predetermined area of the bearing component with an oil repellent removal apparatus.~~

18. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the predetermined area of said bearing component is juxtaposed with a removal member of ~~[[the]]~~ an oil repellent removal apparatus, and wherein the excess oil repellent is suctioned from the predetermined area of said bearing component into the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus while the solution of oil repellent is being supplied onto said bearing component by said supply apparatus.

19. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area ~~[[with]]~~

into an ~~[[the]]~~ oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent solution solidifies in the predetermined area.

20. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area ~~[[with]]~~ into an ~~[[the]]~~ oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent diffuses out of the predetermined area.

21. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area ~~[[with]]~~ into an ~~[[the]]~~ oil repellent removal apparatus at the same time the solution of oil repellent is being supplied to the predetermined area ~~[[with]]~~ by the oil repellent supply apparatus.

22. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the supplying of the solution of oil repellent comprises supplying the solution of oil repellent through a nozzle directed towards and spaced from the predetermined area of said component.

23. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising checking whether the nozzle is clogged before the solution of oil repellent is supplied through the nozzle and onto said component.

24. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising treating the nozzle to remove solidified oil repellent from the nozzle.

25. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ~~removing~~ suctioning of the excess oil repellent comprises ~~applying~~ using an oil repellent removal apparatus to apply a suctioning air current to the predetermined area of said component to suction some of the solution of oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component.

26. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the ~~suction~~ suctioning air current is created in a recess defining an opening confronting the predetermined area of said component, the shape of the opening being complementary to at least a portion of the predetermined area of said component.

27. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned into ~~[[via]]~~ a removal member of ~~[[the]]~~ an oil repellent removal apparatus, and further comprising supplying, to the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, a solvent capable of dissolving the oil repellent to prevent the solution of oil repellent from solidifying on the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus.

28. **(currently amended):** A method of forming an oil-repellent film on a predetermined area of one of a stationary bearing component and a rotary bearing component which together constitute a bearing, comprising the steps of:

juxtaposing the predetermined area of said bearing component with a supply member of an oil repellent supply apparatus and with a removal member of an oil repellent removal apparatus;

rotating the predetermined area of said bearing component while the predetermined area of said bearing component is juxtaposed with the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus and the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus;

supplying a solution of oil repellent through the supply member of the oil repellent supply apparatus and onto said component within the predetermined area thereof while the predetermined area of said bearing component is rotated and juxtaposed with the supply member and the removal member; and

~~removing~~ suctioning excess oil repellent from the predetermined area of said component ~~[[with]]~~ using the removal member of the oil repellent removal

apparatus while the predetermined area of said bearing component is rotated and juxtaposed with the supply member and the removal member.

29. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area [[with]] using the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent solution solidifies in the predetermined area.

30. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area [[with]] using the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus before the solution of oil repellent diffuses out of the predetermined area.

31. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area [[with]] using the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus at the same time the solution of oil repellent is being supplied to the predetermined area with the oil repellent supply apparatus.

32. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the supplying of the oil repellent with the supply apparatus comprises directing the solution of oil repellent onto the predetermined area at a location upstream of a location from which the oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned from the predetermined area of said component by the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, with respect to the direction in which the predetermined area of said component is rotated.

33. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the supplying of the solution of oil repellent comprises supplying the solution of oil repellent through a nozzle directed towards and spaced from the predetermined area of said component.

34. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising checking whether the supply nozzle is clogged.

35. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising treating the nozzle to remove solidified oil repellent from the nozzle.

36. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the ~~removing~~ suctioning of the excess oil repellent comprises ~~applying using the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus to apply~~ a suctioning air current to the predetermined area of said bearing component to suction some of the solution of oil repellent from the predetermined area of said bearing component.

37. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the suctioning air current is created in a recess of the removal member defining an opening confronting the predetermined area of said bearing component, the shape of the opening being complementary to at least a portion of the predetermined area of said component.

38. **(currently amended):** The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the excess oil repellent is ~~removed~~ suctioned via the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, and further comprising supplying, to the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus, a solvent capable of dissolving the oil repellent to prevent the solution of oil repellent from solidifying on the removal member of the oil repellent removal apparatus.